13th May 1954]

Prosecutions under the Press (Objectionable Matter) Act, 1951.

* 758 *Q.*—SRI T. ANANTHA PAI : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state how many prosecutions were launched in 1953 by this Government under the Press (Objectionable Matter) Act, 1951?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" During the year 1953, the Government authorized the Commissioner of Police, Madras, to file complaints under the Press (Objectionable Matter) Act, 1951, against three persons for using their presses for publishing objectionable matter. The Chief Presidency Magistrate who heard the cases upheld the complaints and demanded security from two persons and admonished the third and let him off with a warning.

" 2. A statement[a] giving particulars of the several newspapers and books printed and published in this State that came to adverse notice and the action taken by the Government in respect of these publications during the year 1953 under the Act is laid on the table of the House."

SRI T. ANANTHA PAI :—" The Act covers a number of offences. It seems instructions have been issued to the Commissioner of Police to launch prosecutions only against publication of obscene matters. May I know whether Government are satisfied that the vernacular press particularly has been committing such offences in the State? May I know what action Government would take in the matter? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" If it is brought to the notice of Government that vernacular papers also are defying this Act and are publishing obscene matters, we will certainly take action against the concerned publishers, Sir."

SRI M. PALANIYANDI :—" சார், இந்தக் கேள்விக்கு பதிலில்—காம லீலை புஸ்தகத்திலிருந்து அமெரிக்காவில் விபசாரம் என்ற புஸ்தகம் வரை தமிழ் புத்தகங்களைத்தான் பறிமுதல் செய்திருக்கிறார்கள் என்று சொல்லப் பட்டிருக்கிறது. ஆனால் அதே சமயத்தில் ஆபாசக் கலைகளை வளர்க்கக்கூடியதும், அமெரிக்காவில் நடக்கும் விபசாரத் தன்மைகளை எல்லாம் விளக்கக் கூடியதுமான ஆங்கிலப் பத்திரிகைகள் பல வருகின்றனவே, இவைகளையெல்லாம் பார்த்து அவைகளைப் பறிமுதல் செய்வதற்கு அரசாங்கம் முன்வருமா ? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" I could not have the advantage of reading those books as the hon. Member. If the hon. Member has read those books and if he has any information to give, he may bring it to my notice." (Laughter.)

SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP :—" May I know what steps are taken by this Government against obscene publications which are printed in other States and imported into this State? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" We confiscate those publications as soon as they are brought to our notice."

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[a] Printed as Appendix VI on pages 783–784 infra.

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SRI S. DEIVASIGAMANY :—" I only want that the Hon. Minister for Finance need not contaminate himself by reading those books."

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" I have to guard myself not only against such books but against persons also in view of the position I occupy here."

SRI M. PALANIYANDI :—" Sir, மந்திரி அவர்கள் வேண்டுமானால் படிக்காமல் இருக்கலாம். ஆனால் இந்த புத்தகங்களையெல்லாம் யார் படித்து பறிமுதல் செய்கிறார்களோ அவர்களாவது இந்தமாதிரியான ஆங்கிலப் புத்தகங்களைப் படித்து பறிமுதல் செய்யச் சொல்ல் அரசாங்கம் முன் வருமா என்று கேட்கிறேன் ? "

9 a.m THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" If it is brought to the notice of the Government, we will certainly take action. If the hon. Member has got any information on that subject, he may pass it on to me."

Repairs to the supply channel of the Kovathattai lake, Udayarparalayam taluk.

* 759 Q.—SRI K. R. VISWANATHAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government have received a petition, dated 6th January 1954, from the ayacutdars of Kovathattai lake in Karaikurichi village in Udayarpalayam taluk requesting to repair the supply channel of the lake and to prevent wastage of water through Vemankondan channel by the erection of a 'Kalingal'; and

(b) if so, the action taken thereon?

THE HON. RAJA SRI SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—" (a) Yes, Sir.

" (b) Action is being taken by the local officers to improve the conditions of supply to the tank."

Prevalence of leprosy in Ponneri taluk.

* 760 Q.—SRI A. RATNAM (on behalf of Sri M. Dharmalingam) : Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government have received any report from the District Health Officer, Chingleput, about the existence of a large number of leprosy patients in Madarpakkam and in Manellur villages in Ponneri taluk; and

(b) if so, whether any curative measures have been taken by the Government in the matter?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" (a) No, Sir.

" (b) Does not arise."